

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8467

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, YO

SUBJECT:JURE BILIC ON PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY EIGHT

REF: BELGRADE 0644

1. IN SPEECH TO CITY COMMITTEE OF ZAGREB LC FEB 9
(REFTEL), LCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER JURE BILIC MADE
SWEEPING ATTACK ON "EXTREME LEFT" INTELLECTUALS, EXEMPLIFIED
BY EIGHT PROFESSORS AT BELGRADE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY.
"WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTIES OF
BELGRADE, LJUBLJANA, AND ZAGREB, THE SO-CALLEC CASE OF
THE EIGHT PROFESSORS OF THE BELGRADE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY,
HAS ASSUMED THE DIMENSION OF AN ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-
YUGUSLAV PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN", SUPPORT BY ELEMENTS
"FROM THE RIGHT TO THE ULTRA LEFT" ABROAD, WHO "ACCUSE
YUGOSLAVIA OF STALINISM".

2. ACCORDING TO BILIC, THE EXTREME LEFTIST INTELLIGENTSIA
IS CALIMING THAT THE LCY "FIGHTS AGAINST STALINISM FROM
STALINIST POSITIONS". SUCH A CALAIM, SAID BILIC, REALLY
MASKS A DESIRE TO "ELIMINATE THE LCY AND REPLACE IT WITH
SOMETHING ELSE". HE WARNED THAT THE ACTIVITY OF THE
EXTREMIST INTELLIGENTSIA "DOES NOT END IN WORDS, BUT GOES
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ON TO ORGANIZE STRIKES, DEMONSTRATIONS, ILLEGAL MEETINGS,

AND PRINTING LEAFLETS. THEY ARE ATTACKING THE ENTIRE POLICY OF YUGOSLAVIA". HE CONCLUDED THAT THE EXTREME LEFT, WHILE WANTING TO PRESENT THE PARTY AS INEFFECTIVE ACTUALLY IS "DRAWING POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES AND IS DESTROYING OUR SOCIALIST SOCIETY. WE MUST PROVE TO OUR PUBLIC THE HYPOCRISY OF THESE PEOPLE WITH CONCRETE EXAMPLES".

3. AS FOR THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS, BILIC SAID THEY WANT TO REPLACE THE LCY WITH AN "ELITIST INTELLIGENTSIA IN COLLUSION WITH INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND LEFT-WING STUDENTS WHO SHOULD BECOME THE STANDARD-BEARERS OF A REVOLUTION". SUCH WOULD BE "TANTAMOUNT TO MUSTERING A MASS MOVEMENT, AND THAT, IN ESSENCE WOULD COME DOWN TO WHAT THE FACTION OF 1971 DID -- INTRODUCING A MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM". THE CULMINATION OF THEIR AIMRS WOULD BE "ANARCHISM, LIBERALISM -- IN OTHER WORDS, A BOURGEOIS SOCIETY". BILIC THEN CAUTIONED THAT "THE MOST SINISTER REACTIONARY FORCES IN YUGOSLAVIA, BEGINNING WITH DJILAS' FOLLOWERS, HAVE ESPOUSED SUCH A COURSE AND SUPPORT IT".

4. TURNING TO THE SUPPORT THE BELGRADE EIGHT HAVE RECEIVED FROM ABROAD, BILIC STATES THAT "THE WESTERN ANTICOMMUNIST PRESS HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN ITS VIEW OF YUGOSLAVIA IN RECENT YEARS". AND FINALLY, BILIC COMPLAINS ABOUT THOSE WHO "FEEL NOTHING BAD WILL HAPPEND" -- BUT WHO "FAILED TO RAISE THEIR VOICES WHEN TERRORISTS CHOSE TO MAKE INROADS INTO OUR COUNTRY AND WOULD KILL COMMUNIST BY THOUSANDS ELSEWHERE".

5. COMMENT: BILIC'S SPEECH IS HIGHEST LEVEL LCY ATTACK ON BELGRADE EIGHT WE HAVE SEEN. HIS REMARKS SHOW SERIOUS CONCERN OF PARTY LEADERSHIP THAT INTELLECTUAL DISSENT MOVEMENT HAS SPREAD WELL BEYOND BELGRADE UNIVERSITY AND ENJOYS SUPPORT IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES ABROAD. COUPLING ABOVE WITH WARNING OF RESURGENCY OF RIGHT-WING STALINIST FACTION IN CROATIA (REFTEL), HOWEVER, SUGGESTS BILIC ALSO WARNING WOULD BE PARTY HARDLINERS NOT TO SEIZE DISSENT ISSUE AS PLATFORM FOR RETURN TO RANKOVICIST CONTROLS. CURRENT DEBATE IN SERBIAN LCY OVER PROPER PARTY ROLE IN CULTURE, EDUCATION AND SCIENCE SUPPORTS VIEW THAT WHILE ANTI-PARTY POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVEMENTS CANNOT BE TOLERATED, CRACKDOWN ON ARTISTIC FREEDOMS AND INTELLECTUALS WILL HAVE DECIDED LIMITS. THESE LIMITS, HOWEVER, APPEAR STILL TO BE IN THE PROCESS OF DEFINITION.
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